WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. The chronograph coupling mechanism using a fork controlling the axial movement of a coupling wheel to bring it into friction with an intermediate second wheel, or, conversely, to move it away therefrom against the force of a return spring, said fork being actuated by a control lever performing a reciprocating movement, wherein the mechanism includes a substantially L-shaped coupling spring, independent of control lever and articulated at the junction of its arms on the mechanism plate or on an adjustment plate, the large arm of said coupling spring including the fork and the small arm being able to be actuated by one end of the control lever.

2. The coupling mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the coupling spring is articulated on an adjustment plate including means for guiding and means for positioning the small arm of said coupling spring with respect to the end of the small arm.

3. The coupling mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the guide means are formed by two studs allowing the adjustment plate to have a shake limited by oblong apertures made in the mechanism plate and in the chronograph bridge, said studs being driven through a hinge plate, a spacer and a cover, to form together at one end the hinge of the coupling spring.

4. The coupling mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the positioning means are formed by an extension of the spacer including an oblong aperture whose large axis is substantially perpendicular to the guide means studs, said oblong aperture being intended to receive a cam.

5. The coupling mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the extension including the positioning means is substantially perpendicular to the guide means studs.

6. The coupling mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the control lever includes three concurrent branches, the first having its end pivoting in a mechanism plate, the second having its end held by a return spring resting against the inner toothing of an annular cam including a succession of hollows and flats, and the end of the third allowing the small arm of the coupling spring to be actuated.

7. The coupling mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the second branch of the control lever has its end bent in a Z-shape to form the stop for the return spring.